

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 03469 132243Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2986

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S E C R E T KINSHASA 3469

EXDIS/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

SECDEF FOR P. SOMMER DSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, PFOR, MASS

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: REVISED CONTINGENCY EQUIPMENT PRIORITIES

REF: (A) STATE 080399, (B) KINSHASA 3265, (C) KINSHASA 3377,

(D) STATE 082528, (E) BUCHANAN/CUTLER TELECON 13 APR.

1. GIVEN WHAT WE UNDERSTAND FROM BUCHANAN PHONE CALL TO BE A \$3.8 MILLION LIMIT AS OF NOW, WE HAVE GONE BACK OVER VARIOUS GOZ REQUESTS TO COME UP WITH FOLLOWING TOP PRIORITIES:

A. 6000 M-16 MAGAZINES (KINSHASA 3376)

B. RATIONS (KINSHASA 3265)

C. MEDICAL SUPPLIES (KINSHASA 3426)

D. COMMUNICATIONS - AN/PRC 77'S (KINSHASA 3423)

E. C-130/CESSNA SPARES AND REPAIRS (KINSHASA 3377)

AFTER THESE ITEMS, REMAINING PRIORITIES ARE AS LISTED IN KINSHASA 3377.

2. THE M-16 MAGAZINES AND THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN THE AMOUNTS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. WE REALIZE

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THAT THE OTHER PRIORITY ITEMS LISTED ABOVE WILL RUN OVER THE \$3.8 MILLION LIMIT IF SUPPLIED IN THE AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED AND CAN ONLY SUGGEST THAT STATE/DOD COME UP WITH AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE MONEY CONSTRAINTS.

3. IN THIS REGARD, WISH TO POINT OUT THAT INCLUSION OF PREVIOUSLY ORDERED C-130--WITH FY 76 MONEY--EFFECTIVELY CONSUMES MAJOR

PORTION OF \$13 MILLION, LEAVING VERY LITTLE FOR SHABA-RELATED ITEMS URGENTLY REQUESTED BY GOZ. ALREADY GEN. BABIA AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAVE INDICATED THEY BELIEVED C-130 (AS REPORTED BY VOA APRIL 13) WAS ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT RATHER THAN ONE LONG ON ORDER. WHILE WE HAVE DISABUSED THEM OF THIS ILLUSION, IF THE PRESENT MONETARY CONSTRAINTS ARE TO BE PROLONGED WE WONDER WHETHER IT WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE TO DEFER (BUT NOT DELETE) DELIVERY OF THE C-130, AND USING \$9 MILLION THUS SAVED, FILL TRANSPORT NEEDS WITH WET LEASE OF TWO C-130'S IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING MORE OF THE OTHER EQUIPMENT ON PRIORITY LIST. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO USE \$1 MILLION NOW EARMARKED FOR POL TO PURCHASE PRIORITY ITEMS.

CUTLER

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Message Attributes

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